

file  
ACT/045/004

#13

The Salt Lake Tribune, Thursday, November 19, 1981 B 9

# Anaconda Operation Suspended

By Robert H. Woody  
Tribune Business Editor

**CARR FORK, Tooele County** — Difficult mining conditions and low copper prices have caught up with the Carr Fork operations of the Anaconda Copper Co.

The company told employees Wednesday that operations were being suspended and that 100 of the 900 work force would be laid off.

The company has had problems in the "steep" part of the Highland Boy area of the ore zone.



Mr. Woody

These result from premature failure of roof pillars left from early day mining operations and from extensive earth fractures in the ore zone.

Thus, the effort to selectively extract higher grade ore has been frustrated by the fact that the good ore accumulated in working stopes is accompanied by lower-quality material.

That adds to cost of hauling and lifting the ore to the surface.

## 40% Capacity

The Carr Fork Mine has been operating at 40 percent of capacity, according to Anaconda, an affiliate of the Denver-based Atlantic Richfield Co.

Mining, milling and concentration is being suspended while further development work will be done. Operations might resume in a year, the company said.

"Hopefully, the economy will have recovered and will allow us to take advantage of better conditions by then," Anaconda president James L. Marvin said.

The \$240 million Carr Fork project was announced a decade ago. Development began in 1974.

Service and production access is by two shafts in the upper part of Carr Fork Canyon on the west side of the Oquirrh Mountains. Each is about 3,900 feet deep.

A conveyor takes ore down the canyon to a concentrator. Concentrates were being shipped by rail to San Diego for shipment to Japan for smelting and refining.

## 1980 Accident

The mine was nearing profitability in spring of 1980. However, a load of ore being hauled to surface dropped the full length of the production shaft.

That caused \$3.8 million in damage and cost \$10 million in lost production.

The ore, with an average grade of nearly 1.5 percent, is considered to have continuity with the North Oreshoot body under development by Kennecott Minerals Co.'s Utah Copper Division under the north side of the Bingham open pit mine.

There have been conversations in past between Kennecott and Anaconda whereby Anaconda would mine in Kennecott's part in exchange for allowing Kennecott to further expand overburden removal on surface land owned by Anaconda.